GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2502
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2000
DESERT LAND IN RAJASTHAN
GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAV

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the districts having hilly and desert land in Rajasthan;

(b) the funds provided to the State for making this hilly and desert land cultivable during the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether the State Governments have not utilised the funds fully so far;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reason therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the funds are utilised for the intended purposes?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (A. RAJA)

(a) The names of the districts in Rajasthan having hilly and desert land are given below.

Districts having hilly land : Alwar, Banswara, Baran, Bharatpur, Bhilwara, Bundi, Chittorgarh, Dausa, Dholpur, Dungarpur, Jhalawar, Karauli, Kota, Sawai Madhopur and Tonk.

Districts having desert land : Barmer, Bikaner, Churu, Hanumangarh, Jaisalmer, Jhunjhunu and Jodhpur.

Districts having hilly and desert land : Ajmer, Jaipur, Jalore, Nagaur, Pali, Rajsamand, Sikar, Sirohi and Udaipur.

(b) 32 blocks in 11 districts namely Ajmer, Bharatpur, Banswara, Dungarpur, Jhalawar, Kota, Baran, Sawai Madhopur, Karauli, Tonk and Udaipur are covered under the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and 85 blocks in 16 districts namely Ajmer, Barmer, Bikaner, Churu, Hanumangarh, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur, Jaipur, Nagaur, Pali, Rajsamand, Sirohi, Sikar and Udaipurare covered under the Desert Development Programme (DDP). Details of funds provided to the State for development of the areas under the two programmes during the last three years and the current year are given below.

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	DDP	DPAP
1997-98	3463.89	419.00
1998-99	5063.56	173.50
1999-2000	3901.21	385.75
2000-01	1362.85	90.90

(c)& (d) Out of the funds provided as above, an amount of Rs.4323.10 lakh under DDP and Rs.131.93 lakh under DPAP remained unutilized in the State so far. This under-utilisation has been due to the slow progress of operationalising the Guidelines for Watershed Development with effect from 1.4.1995 for the projects under these programmes in the initial stages, particularly in terms of community mobilization, setting up of the prescribed institutional framework at various levels for implementation of the programmes and imparting necessary training to the project functionaries on all aspects of watershed development. Further, fund utilization in the special projects launched during 1999-2000 for combating desertification in 10 DDP districts of the State has been slow on account of the time taken in selection of suitable project areas and in carefully planning the project activities in the initial stages.

(e) In order to ensure that funds are utilized for the intended purpose, the Guidelines provide for constitution of a Watershed Development Advisory Committee at the district level and a Watershed Programme Implementation and Review Committee at the State level. At the Central level, implementation of the projects is monitored through periodical reviews by the Secretary (RD) with the concerned State Secretaries. Similar reviews are undertaken by the Joint Secretary in-charge of the Programmes. Visits to the project areas by Central Officers handling the Programmes as well as by the Area Officers specifically assigned the task of overseeing programme implementation in the State(s) allotted to them help in ensuring that funds are utilized for the intended purposes.